



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY NEWS RELEASE

Department of Toxic Substances Control

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New Electronic Waste Emergency Regulations Approved

Sacramento --- The California Department of Toxic Substances Control today announced new regulations adding Liquid Crystal Display (LCD) and Plasma television screens to a list of electronic devices included in a statewide recycling program. The new regulations, established under SB 20 Sher and SB 50 Sher, are designed to provide funding to recycle electronic wastes.

Under the new regulations, which became effective on December 27, 2004, Californians who purchase plasma or LCD televisions after July 1, 2005 will pay a small fee (\$6 to \$10 depending on screen size) at the time of purchase to fund the program. The new regulations add plasma and LCD televisions to a list of electronic devices that includes: cathode ray tube televisions and computer monitors, laptop computers, LCD computer monitors, with screens larger than 4 inches diagonally.

"These new regulations will provide the support needed to recycle plasma and LCD televisions. Recycling electronic devices such as these when they are no longer wanted is an important step in protecting the environment", said B.B. Blevins, DTSC Director.

The regulations also implement portions of Senate Bill 50, which amended the Electronic Waste Recycling Act (EWRA -SB-20 Sher). The Act (SB 20) established a statewide video display device recycling program. SB 50 implements the act. Product inclusion in the program is based on testing by the DTSC which found that electronic devices tested exceeded hazardous waste criterion for either copper or lead.

Under the new regulations, plasma and LCD televisions are now presumed to be hazardous waste when discarded and will be covered under the EWRA beginning July 1, 2005. The new regulations will make it easier for Californians to recycle their plasma and LCD's in the future, thereby reducing the quantities of toxic metals in California's landfills.

The new regulations are available on the DTSC website at:

http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/LawsRegulationsPolicies/LCD/OEARA_REG_LCD_Emergency_Text_Final.pdf.

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These emergency regulations are effective for two years during which DTSC will promulgate permanent regulations that implement the EWRA. Additional information regarding the EWRA and the proper handling and recycling of waste electronic devices may be downloaded from www.dtsc.ca.gov and at www.ecycle.org.

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The Department of Toxic Substances Control's mission is to restore, protect, and enhance the environment and ensure public health, environmental quality and economic vitality by regulating hazardous waste, conducting and overseeing cleanups, and developing and promoting pollution prevention.